

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4080

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU

SUBJ: ITU: PARTICIPATION IN SAUDI ARABIAN BID

REF: STATE 297905

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, MISSION CHECKED WITH TOM FULLER, STAFF MEMBER OF EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST DIVISION, TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPT (TCD). AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER WITH COLLEAGUES (INCLUDING BERGMAN, CHIEF OF DIVISION, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM ACCOMPANYING ITU SECRETARY GENERAL MILI ON OFFICIAL TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH INCLUDED STOPOVER IN SAUDI ARABIA), FULLER ADVISED THAT:

A). AS PART OF ITS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ITU ROUTINELY OFFERS TO REVIEW BIDS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS IN THESE COUNTRIES;

B) ITU REVIEW CONSISTS OF MERELY EXAMINING TECHNICAL ASPECT OF BIDS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY MEET TERMS OF THE REQUEST FOR TENDERS; ITU DOES NOT CONDUCT ANY SORT OF COST/ PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION;

C) ITU HANDLES SUCH EXAMINATIONS ON AD HOC BASIS; THERE IS NO SPECIFIC SECRETARIAT MECHANISM TO DO SO. IF ITU EXPERT IS PRESENT IN COUNTRY WHICH IS SOLICITING BIDS, HE, IF KNOWLEDGEABLE IN FIELD, WILL EXAMINE BIDS; IF NOT, REQUEST WOULD COME TO ITU HEADQUARTERS WHERE PERSON HAVING MOST EXPERTISE (EITHER IN TCD GROUP OF ENGINEERS OR IN CCI'S) WOULD

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EXAMINE.

2. IN THE PARTICULAR CASE AT HAND, AS WE RECONSTRUCT IT, WHEN MILI VISITED SAUDI ARABIA DURING RECENT TRIP, HE LEARNED THAT LOCAL ITU EXPERT (A JAPANESE), WHO IS A MICROWAVE EXPERT AND HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ASSIST SAUDI TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS IN EVALUATING BIDS, ENDED HIS TOUR PREMATURELY AND RETURNED TO JAPAN. MILI EVIDENTLY THEREUPON OFFERED ITU HEADQUARTERS ASSISTANCE TO SAUDIS IN THIS REGARD, BUT EVIDENTLY SAUDIS MERELY THANKED MILI AND TOLD HIM THEY WOULD KEEP HIS OFFER IN MIND.

3. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US FROM THE FOREGOING THAT ITU DOES NOT PLAY A SUBSTANTIAL OR DETERMINING ROLE IN CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR MEMBER STATES AND, IN THIS CASE, WE DO NOT KNOW IF ITU WILL BE INVOLVED AT ALL. ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE FOR WESTERN ELECTRIC/ROCKWELL OFFICIALS TO VISIT GENEVA AT PRESENT. WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE BEST ADVISED TO THOROUGHLY EXAMINE PROPOSED BID TO ENSURE THAT IT COVERS EACH AND EVERY POINT RAISED IN THE SAUDI REQUEST FOR TENDERS.

4. MISSION WILL FOLLOW THIS MATTER CLOSELY AND IF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BECOME KNOWN, WE WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY. CATTO

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